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NOVEMBER MEETING, 1890.

THE stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 13th inst., at three o'clock P. M., the President, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, in the chair.

After the reading of the record and of the list of donors to the Library, the Librarian called the attention of the members to an elegant cabinet which had been made for the purpose of holding the Parkman Papers presented on two former occasions. See Proceedings for Jan. 8, 1885 (2d series, vol. i. pp. 360-362), and for Dec. 9, 1886 (2d series, vol. iii. pp. 152, 153). On both these occasions the gifts were referred to a special committee, who subsequently reported on their character. See Proceedings for March 11, 1886 (2d series, vol. ii. pp. 225-228), and for Dec. 8, 1887 (2d series, vol. iv. pp. 44-46). The cabinet was given by Mr. Parkman, the senior Vice-President, and was received at these rooms on October 21. The following letter from Mr. Shaw, the architect who designed the cabinet, will explain itself:—

BOSTON, Oct. 24, 1890.

DR. SAMUEL A. GREEN.

DEAR SIR,—It was my intention, in designing the cabinet for the Parkman Papers, to recall the French origin of these manuscripts, and for that reason I adopted a style that is allied to the architecture of the French châteaux, and have used as ornaments, on the panels of the doors, the emblems of the scallop-shell and the *fleur-de-lis*, which constantly recur in French work. The material of which the cabinet is made is quartered oak.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE RUSSELL SHAW.

The President then presented to the Society, in the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Bigelow Updike, a manuscript volume of notes of sermons preached at Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1689-1693, taken down by her ancestor, Joseph Baxter, while an undergraduate. Mr. Baxter was born in Braintree, June 4, 1676,

graduated at Harvard College in 1693, was ordained at Medfield, April 21, 1697, and died there, May 2, 1745.

The PRESIDENT presented a large and valuable collection of Lincoln Papers, and said : —

The daughter of our late honored associate, Governor Lincoln, has put at my disposal a considerable number of letters found among his papers, which she was unwilling to destroy. Some of them when written were private and confidential. They would be highly valued by a collector of autographs. President Zachary Taylor, John Quincy Adams, Senators Mills and Webster, Leverett Saltonstall, Edward Everett, and others of note have here some interesting memorials. Especially so is the correspondence between Lincoln and Webster, in which the former positively withdraws his name as a candidate likely to be elected as United States Senator, and aids the election of the latter. Mr. Lincoln had been elected by the Senate, but in a letter to the Speaker withdrew his name when the House was to vote. Many of the letters were written during the fiercest political agitation of Anti-Masonry, with large contributions from J. Q. Adams. The nomination of Lincoln for re-election as Governor was then pending. Though he was known not to be a Mason, and as disapproving of the brotherhood, his letters, private and official, when an Anti-Masonic convention was about to be held and he was sharply questioned, prove his manly resolve not to make what is now called "campaign capital" out of the contention. Mr. Adams, in a letter to the Anti-Masonic Convention in Boston, 1831, refused to be its candidate for Governor, and approved and advocated Mr. Lincoln's re-election. Reserving for the present, for myself, a few of the letters, which, however, will ultimately fall to the Society, I will commit the rest to our Library. They may at some time have value for uses of personal, party, or general history.

Among the letters is one pleasantly concerned with the classical ceremonies formerly observed at Harvard College, which may have an historic interest. This I will read with a prefatory introduction.

It was my privilege for many successive years, in my annual attendance on the anniversary of the American Antiquarian Society, at Worcester, from my election to it in 1847, to

share for several days the delightful hospitality of Governor Lincoln. As almost the last of the representatives of the old manners of formal dignity in the line of the Chief Magistrates of Massachusetts, he was, in himself and through his lineage, a striking and impressive character, scholar, agriculturist, jurist, and statesman, judge on the bench, representative in Congress, and known as the first of our Governors to exercise the veto power. In 1829, more than sixty years ago, midway in his ten years' term as Governor, he was called upon to perform a dignified official act, which has now become an observance of the past in this Commonwealth. Like many of his predecessors in the Colony, Province, and State, he was to inaugurate a new President of Harvard College. I recall that, some forty years ago, in a charming retrospect, he told me of the anxiety and apprehension which he had felt in view of the duty expected of him at the College on the accession of President Quincy. His remarks were substantially as follows. He reminded himself that his predecessors in that august service had always addressed the incoming President in a Latin speech. He at once resolved that he, an alumnus of the College, and a marked observer of all proprieties, would not allow that formality to fail with him, though he might be the last — as the event has proved — to perform it. The excellent and honored Governor Briggs — not a classicist — allowed it to lapse, once for all, at the inauguration of President Everett. But Governor Lincoln foreboded the service with extreme embarrassment and misgiving. He said that in a varied and laborious public career he had wholly lost what Latin he once might have had, retaining only legal terms and phrases. Yet with earnest and heroic resolve he set himself as to a hard school-boy task. Having retained an office for his Library in the Main Street, he shut himself in with the dictionary and grammar of his pupilage days, to produce a classic deliverance. There were then none of the now abounding manuals and helps for Sciolists. Word by word, with inflections, augments, tenses, cases, and genders, the crucial process went on. He would be indebted to no one for suggestion or revision. After writing in English what he wished to say, as he then set about turning it into Latin, he would occasionally alter his English model to get round his inability to Latinize a word or phrase. Then, having his labored verbal text on paper, his next in-

creased anxiety was about his prosody in its delivery, that he might not confound long and short vowels. It was to be committed, to be recited *memoriter*, as if extemporized. Just as he was resting from this stage of a recuperated scholarship, as the public ordeal was approaching, he received an ominous letter from the venerable Harvard Medical Professor, Dr. Waterhouse. Some here, perhaps, with myself, may remember that picturesquely eccentric Professor who closed his life of ninety-two years in 1846. The Governor said to me that if he had not wrought already his severe task, that letter of the quaint old disciple of Jenner would have wholly wrecked his peace of mind. I find that letter of Dr. Waterhouse among the papers given to me, and will now read it. I will premise, however, that the Governor, after he had found deliverance on the inauguration platform, ventured to ask the Latin Professor Beck whether he had made any grievous slip. The reply was, "only in the prosody of one syllable."

CAMBRIDGE, April 1st 1829.

SIR, — I here send your Excellency a copy of a Latin Oration which I pronounced at my adoption into this University half a century ago. I have just printed it, being unwilling to commit it to the flames, with many other papers, the result of less labour.

I have felt, fostered, and preserved a strong attachment to Harvard College, notwithstanding the collisions of party spirit and the mischief of professional rivalships; and have felt disposed to leave behind me expressions of that partiality in a language that has maintained its dignity through the devastations of ages.

I am among those who lament the too great neglect of the Latin tongue in the most ancient and celebrated of our American Universities. Among our Divines we have, I believe, few such Latin scholars as Cotton Mather, or his son Samuel; among the Lawyers, I suspect, still fewer, and fewer yet among the Physicians. The former President, Jefferson, cultivated the Latin and Greek to the last, and so has Mr. Madison, in a great degree; as I discover in a letter I lately received from him.

I hope the President Elect (Quincy) has not allowed this medium of universal science to rust for want of use, seeing his approaching installation will call for it, *more majorum*.

With a high degree of respect, I remain,

Your ob^t Serv^t

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

His Excellency Governor LINCOLN, Worcester.

I have here the copy of Dr. Waterhouse's Inaugural Oration which belongs to our Library. It was delivered in 1783, but not printed by the author, as he writes Governor Lincoln, till 1829, forty-six years afterward. The reason which he gives for printing it is as follows:—

“for as much as it fixes the era of an historical fact not to be found on the records of the University. That the origin of the second school of medicine in America (that of Pennsylvania having preceded it by about thirty years) should have been publicly celebrated before the highest civil authorities in the Commonwealth — clerical and literary bodies — with a festive entertainment, and by illuminations of all the college buildings, and yet no record made of the installation, must surprise all those unacquainted with the remissness of times past.”

There is here an earlier series of papers from the files of the senior Levi Lincoln. Besides being the father of the Governors of two New England States, he was himself a probate judge, government commissioner on estates confiscated in the Revolution, member of the first State Constitutional Convention, chosen to the old Congress of 1781, member of the House, Senate, and Council, Lieutenant-Governor, and acting Governor, all of this State; and member of Congress and Attorney-General of the United States, and declined an appointment by Jefferson as Justice of the Supreme Court. The package contains very interesting letters from Jefferson, Madison, John Randolph, Governor Eustis, Justice Story, and others.

The third section, Q to Z, inclusive, having been called on for communications, the Rev. EDWARD J. YOUNG said:—

I hold in my hand an original letter of Lafayette. It is quite brief, and it came from a branch of the Washington family who live about six miles from Winchester, in Virginia, having been given to a friend of mine by the late Mr. Byrd Washington, who owned a fine estate there, and whose widow still remains on the place.

It is dated April 12, 1782, five months and a half after the battle of Yorktown, in which Lafayette bore an honorable part. It was written in Paris, to which he had returned on his second visit, having asked and obtained permission from Congress. Previous to his departure Washington wrote to him

a letter, which is published by Sparks in his eighth volume (pp. 203-207), in which he gives his views respecting the operations which should be undertaken in the next campaign, and expresses his warmest regard for Lafayette.

Count Segur, who is referred to in the beginning of this letter, was the young friend whom Lafayette wished to accompany him when he first came to this country in 1777, and who did come in 1782, and served in the American army till after the withdrawal of the French forces under Rochambeau.

But the most interesting feature of this letter is the charming spirit of familiarity and friendship which pervades it, and the tone of mingled respect and affection which is equally noticeable.

PARIS April 12th 1782

DEAR GEORGE, — This letter will be either sent or delivered by Count de Segur, a very intimate friend of mine, whom I particularly recommend to your Attention. I am Happy, My dear Sir, in an Opportunity to write to you, and I anticipate the pleasure to be again with you in a few months, when we may again begin Warlike Operations. As I imagine you are with the General, to whom I have written very fully, I think it needless to send you any European Intelligence. Remind me most affectionately to your family and to my Brother officers, and be assured, my dear George, that with a sincere Esteem and warm Attachment I am most affectionately

Yours,

LAFAYETTE.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Endorsed: "Paris, 12th April 1782, from the Marquis De Lafayette."

There can be no question as to the genuineness of this letter, for from beginning to end it is in the handwriting of Lafayette. The name "George Washington" at the bottom is preceded by a pen-mark which it is impossible to decipher, and which is followed by what seems to be the letter "A." Washington had a nephew, George Augustine Washington, who was at this time nineteen years of age, being six years younger than Lafayette and unmarried. Whether he is the person meant by the words "A. George Washington," cannot positively be determined from the letter itself. We know that the most intimate relations existed between the Marquis and the General, including the members of his household; but the mode of address here used would hardly be employed in writ-

ing to the commander-in-chief. Moreover, in the "Memoirs, Correspondence, and Manuscripts of Lafayette," published by his family (Paris, 1837, vol. ii. pp. 27-29), there is an elaborate letter written by him to Washington, dated Paris, April 12, 1782, which shows that the note commencing "Dear George" was probably addressed on the same day to the nephew, though his name is not given correctly by the writer. The letter referred to contains the following paragraph:—

"Cette lettre, mon cher général, vous est portée par le comte de Ségur, fils du marquis de Ségur, ministre d'état au département de la guerre, lequel, en France, a une grande importance. — Le comte de Ségur allait avoir bientôt un régiment; mais il aime mieux servir en Amérique et sous vos ordres. C'est un des hommes les plus aimables, les plus spirituels et les meilleurs que j'aie jamais vus. Il est mon intime ami. Je vous le recommande, mon cher général, et par vous à tout le monde en Amérique, et particulièrement dans l'armée."

In November, 1782, the preliminary treaty of peace was signed by which Great Britain acknowledged the independence of the United States, and Lafayette did not return to this country until 1784.

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN made the following remarks:—

A few weeks ago, while visiting the library of the New York Historical Society, I had an opportunity to examine a bound volume of "The Boston News-Letter," covering the period from April 24, 1704, to April 19, 1708. The file is nearly complete, lacking only five numbers, and includes the first four years of the newspaper. It was given to that Society in 1805, a short time after its organization, by George Bruce, a well known type-founder of New York. The earlier volumes of the News-Letter are exceedingly rare, and, so far as my knowledge goes, this file is the best one extant. In the margin of some of the numbers are notes in the handwriting of Chief-Justice Samuel Sewall, which in a few instances are signed with the initials "S. S." This signature would seem to dispel any doubt, that might otherwise exist, as to their authorship. Occasionally such notes refer to matters mentioned in his Diary, which is published in the Collections (fifth series, vols. v.-vii.) of our Society. There is also in the same

hand an index of four pages to certain articles printed in various issues.

Scattered throughout the volume are several contemporaneous broadsides and other papers, bound up with the numbers of the newspaper, which give an additional interest and value to the file. These publications are as follows:—

I. After No. 11, July 3, 1704, is

An Account of the Behaviour and last Dying

SPEECHES

Of the Six Pirates, that were Executed on *Charles River*, *Boston* side,
on Fryday *June* 30th. 1704. *Viz.*

Capt. John Quelch, John Lambert, Christopher Scudamore,
John Miller, Erasmus Peterson and Peter Roach. (Pages 2.)

This sheet is also found bound up in the file of the News-Letter belonging to our Society, where it appears after No. 10, June 26, 1704.

II. After No. 121, August 12, 1706, is

A Copy of the Last Will and Testament of

Richard Bellingham Esqr.

Late Governour of the Colony of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*.

And some Arguments to prove this was the said Governours last Will, and was Proved | and Approved as such, and ought to continue valid against the Attempts of all that | would Nullify the same. |

Published by the Reverend Mr. *James Allen*, one of the Executors in said Will named. | (Pages 2.)

A manuscript note in the upper margin of the first page says: "Given me by Mr. S. Stoddard, Augt. 6. 1706."

III. After No. 173, August 11, 1707, a broadside:—

May 28th 1706.

To my Worthy Friend,

Mr. James Bayley,

Living (if Living) in *Roxbury*. A POEM.

This broadside is signed "Nicholas Noyes," and on it is written: "Printed July 30th 1707." Judge Sewall, in his printed Diary, under date of May 27, 1706, says: "Mr. Noyes had left his Verses for Mr. Bayley, which I carried with me [from Salem] next morning." Probably Mr. Noyes was at that time in doubt whether Mr. Bayley was still alive, as then for many weeks he had been sick unto death.

Mr. Sibley, in his "Harvard Graduates" (II. 245), says that these Lines were printed in the News-Letter, August 11, 1707; but this is an error. He evidently followed the authority of Prof. Moses Coit Tyler, who makes the same statement in his "History of American Literature" (II. 43 *note*). Presumably Professor Tyler examined this file in the New York library, and inadvertently described the broadside as a number of the newspaper. On a later page (298) of his volume Mr. Sibley modifies the statement, and says that the verses "are sometimes bound with files of the Boston News-Letter."

IV. After the same number (173):—

Informations | And | Directions | For the making of Tar and choice
of Trees | for the same, as in *Finland*, &c. (Pages 2.)

This paper is signed "J. Bridger, Surveyor Gen. of all Her Majesties Woods, &c. in *America*"; and the imprint at the bottom of page 2 is "~~Boston~~ in ~~New-England~~, Printed by B. Green, July, 1707."

V. After No. 178, Sept. 15, 1707, a broadside:—

A Pindarick ELEGY Upon the Renowned,

Mr. Samuel Willard,

Late Reverend Teacher of the South Church in *Boston*, and
Vice-President of *Harvard College* in *Cambridge*;
Who deceased *September* the 12th. 1707. *Ætatis Anno* 68.

This Elegy, printed with an engraved border, is signed "John Danforth" as the author. He was a graduate of Harvard College in the Class of 1677; but the title does not appear in the list of Danforth's works, given in the "Harvard Graduates" (II. 511-514).

VI. After No. 189, Dec. 1, 1707 : —

TUESDAY, November, 25, 1707.

The Reasons of my withdrawing my Vote from what was Pass'd in Council, | upon *Saturday*, November the First, relating to an Address offered to Her | Majesty, Sign'd *Nath. Higginson &c.* |

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SAMUEL SEWALL.

BOSTON N. E. Printed December, 10. 1707.

I am indebted to Mr. William Kelby, Assistant Librarian of the New York Historical Society, for a careful collation of these titles.

While I am on my feet, Mr. President, I will call the attention of the members to another matter. Within a short time an application has been received for permission to copy a letter written by Thomas Jefferson, now belonging to the Society, with a view to its publication in a forthcoming edition of Jefferson's Works. The subject was referred to the Council, as usual; and by them I have been instructed to submit the letter at this time, so that it will appear in the Proceedings, as follows : —

MONTICELLO Aug. 5. 17.

DEAR SIR Your favor of July 14. was duly recieved with my acc^t annexed, which I believe is all right except that to the balance of 662.19 should be added an error of 10. D. in the account of Dec. 31. 1816. where the proceeds of the sale of 175. Bar. flour for 1581.75 is mis-entered as 1571.75 this error of the copyist is easily rectified. I believe also I have not yet been credited the charge of 31. D. ordered to be pd to Dufief but not actually paid, debited to me Aug. 4. 16 (see explanation in my lres of Feb. 9. & 17th Dufief's letter inclosed to you, and yours of Feb. 13.) I was surprised to learn by a letter of July 15. from m^r Yansey that 3. h^hds of my tob^o remained still at Lynchb^g by failure of the promise of the boatmen, which however he said would go off in a few days. we have also a hogshhead here which Johnson will take down the first swell of the river. be so good as to sell these on their arrival for what they will bring I shall be obliged shortly to count on their proceeds in my draughts; as on my arrival at Poplar Forest, (to which I set out the day after tomorrow) I must draw in favor of m^r Robertson for 800. D. and before my departure in fav^r of Sam^l Carr or order for about 150. or 160. D. my general view of the present state of my account is about thus.

1817. July 1. bal ^{ce} by acc ^t rendered	662.19	1817. June 27. Ord ^t fav ^t South-all	990.
1816. Aug. 4. payment to Duffief charged.	31.	July 7. Note bk ^e Virgi redeem ^d	2000.
Dec. 31. miscopying of article of 1581.75.	10.	Ord. to be drawn — Robertson	800
1817. July 9. note in bk ^e U S.	3000		<u>3790</u>
4 hhds tob ^o to be yet sold suppose	400.	balance	<u>333.19</u>
2. Barrels condemn ^d flour. suppose	20.		<u>4123.19</u>
	<u>4123.19</u>		

on this will be the draught in fav^t of Sam Carr, am^t not exactly known. I must also request you to send me a small bale of cotton the first time Johnson goes down. he will call on you for it. I shall not be able to replenish my funds until by 50. Bar. rent flour about 90. days hence, and perhaps some crop flour from home. I expect to remain in Bedford till the middle of next month. consequently a blank stamp for my note in the bk^e th^o due Sep. 9 should be forwarded to me in Bedford, and the sooner the surer. I am affectionately & respectfully yours

TH: JEFFERSON

The letter is written on the back of another one, which bears the superscription "Thomas Jefferson Esqr Mountichello." It is endorsed in Jefferson's handwriting, "Gibson Patrick. Aug. 5. 17," to whom without doubt the finished letter was sent, and it was probably kept by the writer as a rough draft or copy. The way of spelling "Mountichello" is a suggestion that the name was formerly pronounced as an Italian word.

The PRESIDENT reported from the Council that Mr. Thomas W. Higginson had been selected to deliver the Address on the Centennial Anniversary of the Formation of the Society, and that he had accepted the appointment.

Judge William S. Shurtleff, of Springfield, President of the Connecticut Valley Historical Society, was elected a Resident Member.